

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 041607Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2451

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJECT: 30TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY CELEBRATION

REF: A) STATE 51905 B) BELGRADE 1617

1. MAJOR USG CONSIDERATION IN 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IS TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO EVENTS WHICH EXAGGERATE SOVIET ROLE IN ALLIED VICTORY. HERE WE HAVE A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST WITH YUGOSLAVS (REF B). TITO HAS LAMBASTED SOVIETS AND THEIR CLIENTS FOR BELITTling YUGOSLAV ROLE IN WAR. HE REFERRED TO WESTERN MILITARY AID IN PASSING ANDNNOTED THAT YUGOSLAV PARTISANS FOUGHT ON SIDE OF ALLIES.

2. ON CELEBRATION ITSELF, TITO SAID HE WANTED EVENT SO ORGANIZED THAT ALL YUGOSLAVS, INCLUDING YOUNGER GENERATIONS WHO DID NOT EXPERIENCE WAR, WILL KNOW EXACTLY HOW IT HAPPENED. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE SOVIET ROLE IN THE LIBERATION OF YUGOSLAVIA (VERY LITTLE, VERY LATE) WILL BE GIVEN ITS DESERVED PLACE IN YUGOSLAV CELEBRATION, AND THAT WESTERN ALLIES, INCLUDING US, WILL BE GIVEN MODEST CREDIT FOR COMING TO AID OF PARTISANS EARLIER THAN SOVIETS DID. YUGOSLAVS MAY ALSO RECALL THAT PARTISANS RESCUED ALLIED AIRMEN DOWNED IN YUGOSLAVIA.

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3. THIS YUGOSLAV CELEBRATION THUS REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO EMPHASIZE TIES WITH THIS COUNTRY GOING BACK TO PARTISAN DAYS, TO WHAT THEY REFER TO HERE AS THEIR "REVOLUTION." TITO HAS ALREADY HIMSELF MADE EXACTLY THE POINT WE WOULD LIKE TO REINFORCE BY OUR ATTENDANCE AT EVENT: HE GAVE MODEST CREDIT TO OUR AID AND RECOGNITION OF PARTISAN ROLE IN WAR, AND EXCORIATED SOVIETS FOR TRYING TO BELITTLE PARTISANS AND CLAIM CREDIT FOR NLIBERATING YUGOSLAVIA.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT A DELEGATION BE FORMED SOONEST, PERHAPS COMPOSED OF A PROMINENT POLITICAL FIGURE, ONE OR MORE FORMER MEMBERS OF US TEAMS WHICH CONDUCTED LIAISON WITH PARTISANS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF AVIATORS RESCUED BY THE PARTISANS, AND A HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICER. AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR POLITICAL FIGURE, DEPT MAY WANT TO CONSIDER FORMER CONGRESSMAN KOHN BLATNIK, WHO IS WELL KNOWN HERE FOR HIS OWN WWII RECORD IN YUGOSLAVIA. INDIVIDUALS WE KNOW WHO WERE LIAISON OFFICERS WITH THE PARTISANS INCLUDE: HENRY LICHTENBERGER, TEMPLE FIELDING, COL. ELLERY HUNTINGTON, ALEX VUCHINICH, TIM PFEIFFER, AND MAJ. STAFFORD REID.

5. APPRECIATE INDICATION SOONEST OF STATUS DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF US PARTICIPATION PER PARA 4 REF B.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WORLD WAR II, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES  
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**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1975  
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